

Rules Committee Opinion 1-2014  
(Striker Testing for a Wire)

Question: May a striker mark a ball or use a ball that has been roqueted to test for a wire during the striker's turn?

Answer: No, a striker may not use any ball in or out of the game to test for a wire during a turn.

Discussion: Rule 9.4a provides that a striker ball is entitled to a lift if it is wired "at the beginning of a turn" from all balls on which it is alive and the opponent is responsible for the position of the striker's ball. Therefore, a striker is not entitled to a ruling during a turn as to whether an opponent's ball is wired.

A striker may not attempt to determine whether a ball is wired after the striker's turn has ended since pursuant to Rule 14.3a, only the striker can be on the court and after a player's turn ends, he or she is no longer the striker.

A striker may attempt to determine by his or her own observation during a turn whether or not an opponent's ball is wired, provided that the striker does not exceed the time allotted to take the next shot. However, a striker may not mark a ball to test for a wire, since Rules 2.4 and 14.1, which provide when balls may be marked, do not allow a ball to be marked to test for a wire. Additionally, nothing can be placed against a ball during the striker's turn to check for a possible wire; this is to ensure any critically placed ball is not accidentally moved.